



OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Tiffany Ward
Director

MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2022

To: Jennifer Bryant, Director
Office of Management and Budget

cc: Gabe Albornoz, President
County Council

From: Tiffany Ward, Director
Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice

Re: Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-88
FY22 Capital Budget Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Gude
Drive Community Services Building

- I. **FINDING:** The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that Supplemental Appropriation #22-88 *FY22 Capital Budget Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Gude Drive Community Services Building* is unlikely to advance racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County as there is no evidence that the existing Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project (No. 452202) will benefit communities in greatest need in the county. While this appropriation supports a few of the County Executive's published priority outcome areas¹ and advances MCFRS performance measures², which has the potential to reduce disparate outcomes, the proposed location of the new facility at Gude Drive is not in an area that would best serve residents facing the greatest risk of disparate outcomes related to health, safety, and well-being.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The purpose of Supplemental Appropriation #22-88 FY22 Capital Budget Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Gude Drive Community Services

¹ <https://montgomerycountymd.gov/government/visionStatement.html>

² <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/countystat/mcfrs.html>

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) for Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #22-88 FY22
Capital Budget Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) Gude Drive
Community Services Building

June 14, 2022

Page 2 of 3

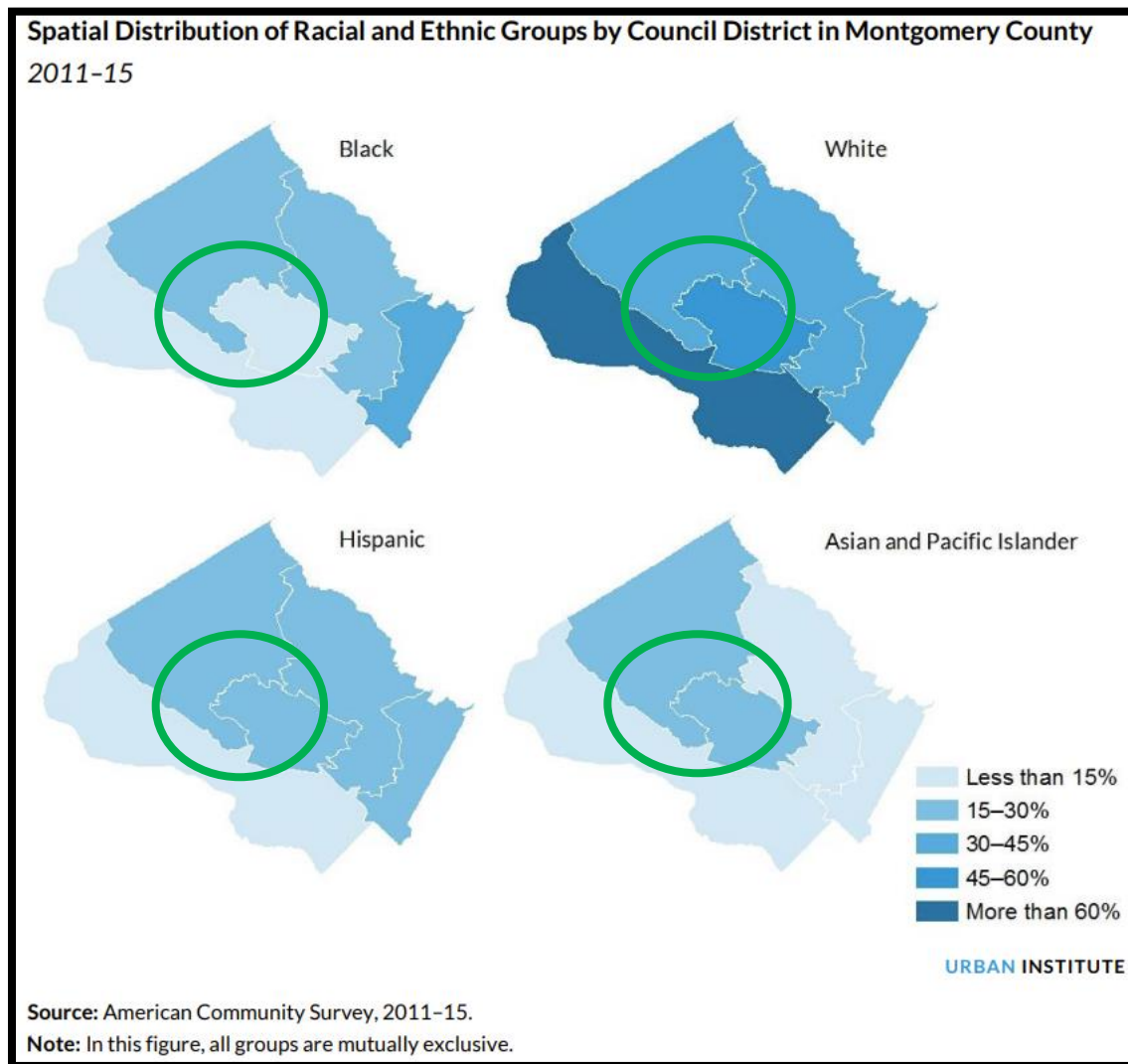
Building is to relocate programs from the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Services Building at 14111 Georgia Avenue which has been deemed uninhabitable due to building deficiencies. Additionally, this project would allow MCFRS to relocate the Technical Operations Section from Southlawn Lane to achieve additional needed workspace, while also adding needed warehouse space for Emergency Medical Service Logistics and Property and Supply.

This supplemental appropriation intends to leverage funds from the Emergency Service Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (ESPP) which primarily serves Medicaid recipients.³ Qualifications for supplemental payments provided by the ESPP stipulate that providers be enrolled in the Medicaid program, provide ground Emergency Transport Services to Medicaid recipients; and be a “Jurisdictional Emergency Medical Services Operational Program. These qualifications align with ORESJ’s approach and equity best practices which charge jurisdictions to allocate resources in ways that recognize the needs of those most burdened by racial and other inequities. While these communities could certainly benefit from an upgraded facility better equipped to serve their needs, helping to close equity gaps related to health, preventable injury, and response times by MCFRS, the proposed location of the facility would not be in an area where these communities primarily reside in the county.

As shown in the map below, the proposed location of the building at Gude Drive (within the area circled in green on the county map) is primarily comprised of white residents who also have higher incomes.⁴ The building’s current location at Georgia Avenue (the eastern portion of the county map) is represented mostly by BIPOC communities with generally lower incomes.

³ https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/medicaid-state-plan-amendments/index.html?search_api_fulltext=Transmittal+Number+20-0010&sort_by=field_approval_date&items_per_page=50

⁴ <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/racial-inequities-montgomery-county-2011-15>



Considering that MCFRS would be leveraging funds through ESPP primarily targeted for low-income communities of color, ORESJ would recommend ensuring that the building is accessible to these communities who are of greatest need. This could potentially be achieved by investing in the updates necessary for the current building, or searching for a new, well-maintained building in the nearby area of the current location. If this is not at all possible, searching for a useable space in a comparable high-need area would also suffice.

cc: Scott Goldstein, Director, Fire and Rescue Services
Ken Hartman, Director, Office of Strategic Partnership, Office of the County Executive